

# THE BIMETALLIC QUESTION

Box 883 Stock Exchange Tower  
Montreal, Canada H4Z 1K2

The next meeting of the **BIMETALLIC QUESTION** will be held on Thursday, April 4, 2002 at 6:30 p.m. SHARP at the Westmount Library (Westmount Room), 4574 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal, Quebec. To avoid receiving a summons from Inspector Lestrade, please pay close attention to parking signs while parking your hansom carriages.

**The NEXT QUIZ:** "The Golden Pince-nez" will be prepared by Jack Anderson.

**MINUTES** of the MEETING of the BIMETALLIC QUESTION held on Thursday, February 7th, 2002 at the Westmount library (Westmount Room), 4574 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal, Quebec.

**Present:** Jack Anderson, Maureen Anderson, Stanley Baker, David Bercusson, Paul Billette, Patrick Campbell, David Dowse, Linda Huntoon, David Kellett, Elliott Newman, Charles Purdon, Lawrence Reich, & Colin Semel

**Regrets:** Wilfrid de Freitas

**Guests:** Nick Rakic, Arthur Leith and Phyllis Carter (The Sheba).

**CALL TO ORDER:** David Dowse opened the meeting at 6:38 p.m. and welcomed those present. He reminded us that meetings would be held on Thursdays, that being the only evening the library is available.

## SHOW/TELL:

Members and guests were surprised by several delightful tasty treats awaiting their arrival. The treats (now known as "The Vanishing Treats") that circulated the room ranged from chocolates, cashews, and dried apricots to last month's Lemon Loaf recipe. Thus we began one of our most successful gatherings.

Sherlock Holmes believes that a man's "brain attic" should only contain the tools that may help him in doing his work, but of these he should have a large assortment and keep them in the most perfect order. Apparently our members agree as both Colin Semel and David Dowse tested our well-honed skills of observation and deduction. Colin asked us to guess the original shape of a shattered chocolate item. The bag of chocolate pieces circulated the room while possibilities were discussed. I should have remembered Sherlock's statement: *I never guess. It is a capital*



*mistake to theorize before one has data.* Needless to say, I made an incorrect assumption. Sherlock would have taken the pieces as he did with the crown from The Musgrave Ritual and reconstructed the item prior to the crime.

Members and guests introduced themselves and indicated when their interest in Sherlock began.

Patrick circulated three newspaper articles ranging from: "An elementary guide to Afghanistan and Baker St." from The Saturday Review and the "G-men rallied to aid of Sherlock Holmes" from The Guardian, both dated January 19th, 2002, and lastly, "Sherlock Holmes: the truth at last" from The Guardian dated April 26, 2001.

Stanley Baker read a excerpt from a paper that he prepared on Conan Doyle for the Literary Society. It was enlightening and I'm sure members would enjoy reading the complete paper. Elliott Newman's reading of the Animal Language Poetry, Myths and Imagery brought new light to Charles Augustus Milverton to my eyes.



Patrick amazed us with a Bullseye Lantern he built. He explained its many uses. Not only did it serve as a source of light and heat on cold evenings, it could also be used to warm a drink to ward off the evening chill. The Victorian police did not have weapons of defense. Perhaps on occasion it was used to strike an accidental blow on a unruly head. If you recall not only was it used by the police but by their less respectable counterparts as well.

**QUIZ:.** Paul, acting on behalf of Wilfrid, removed from his pocket a closed envelope sealed with Wilfrid's signet. The group stilled as the seal was broken and listened carefully as Paul provided the practical instructions. Nothing was left to chance; even a tiebreaker was prepared should such an event occur. This eventuality indeed did occur when Colin Semel and Elliot Newman tied for second place.

Puzzlement confronts all crime investigators. The crossword puzzle "The Adventures of Charles Augustus Milverton" required our sleuths to eliminate the impossible 25 times so that one honed in on the most likely solution. The Master would have been proud of the direction provided to us by Wilfrid, as he himself was wont to do with Watson. He never provided the complete scene but just enough to stimulate and challenge. Well done, Wilfrid!

**The winners of the quiz were:**

- 1st Prize 15/25 Jack Anderson ("The Bacchus Club Mystery" by Wayne Howell)
- 2nd Prize 13/25 Colin Semel (A video from the Thomas Kelly Bequest containing both The Devils Foot" and "Silver Blaze" from the Granada series.)
- 3rd Prize 13/25 Elliot Newman (Canada Post coupon accompanied by a unique envelope stamped with Sherlock Holmes post marked 90 VIII 31.

**TOASTS**

**This evenings toasts were presented by:** David Dowse **To The Master** followed by Colin Semel - **To Dr. Watson.** Linda Huntoon with **To The Woman** succeeded by Maureen Anderson with **To Mrs. Hudson** and culminating in Elliott Newman's, **To The Society.**



## **TO THE MASTER**

“A Melancholy Glimpse” Read by: David Dowse

A sunny October morning and Sherlock Holmes is sitting by his window overlooking Baker Street. He has just finished his breakfast and is smoking his first pipe of the day. Inside the room the dominating sound of the clock focuses Holmes' mind on the fact that his life is flowing away. Although the rustle of the newspaper by the fireplace indicates that Watson is near at hand, he is nowhere to be found in Holmes' present thoughts. No mail of significance has arrived by the first post. No visitors are penned in on his agenda. Street life bustles by below him in its boring rhythmic pattern. He could involve himself in a chemical experiment, or the cutting and pasting of worthy newspaper articles into his scrapbooks, or beginning that monograph of the chemistry of inks, which he had so often promised himself that he would write.

But no, he sits at the window and watches but really does not see. He is elsewhere, in his not too distant past, in an adrenaline-pumping case. Work is his drug. Without it he is a very lonely sometimes-depressed nondescript man in the vast ocean of humanity that is London. Holmes lives for the hope that at any moment, when he is least expecting it, a challenging case will burst through his doors and once again give meaning and value to his existence. He knows from past experience that his wait will not be long, but for him each tick of the clock is unbearable.

Ladies and gentlemen, I give you Sherlock Holmes; an intensely personal man who depends on the problems of others for the spark which ignites his true character and meaning of life.

## **TO THE MASTER!**

### **TO DR. WATSON**

Read by: Colin Semel

John & Sherlock

John & Mary No. 1

John & Sherlock

John & Mary No. 2

Now, I ask you which couple has the sound of a true partnership? A partnership built on interrupted dinners, scratchy violin music, and the smoke of opium dens? Which partnership is built on a trust (Dr. Watson's in Holmes), questions (Dr. Watson's to Holmes), unswerving and unquestioning belief, even when one is being made a fool of (remember The Dying Detective)? John and Sherlock. Here's to The Doctor, a friend, a compiler, and a publicist of unparalleled value.

Here's TO DR. WATSON!

### **TO THE WOMAN:**

Read by: Linda Huntoon

I ask you, is there anything that is more intoxicating than intelligence? I think not. What a delight it must have been for our Mr. Holmes to match wits with one who could challenge his own.

## **TO THE WOMAN!**



**TO MRS. HUDSON**

“To The Landlady” Read by Maureen Anderson

In Baker Street were rooms to rent,  
and to these rooms our heroes went.  
For many a year they plied their trade  
but never thought to hire a maid.  
There was no need for such a one  
for all the chores were always done.

Poor Mrs. Hudson so we're told,  
did all the work as good as gold.

She washed and cooked and scrubbed the floor  
and brought the clients to their door.

A Paragon, you'll all agree  
But liberated? NO SIR-EE.

**TO MRS HUDSON!**

**TO THE SOCIETY:**

Read by: Elliott Newman

A perchance-distant relative of Sherlock Holmes, Oliver Wendel Holmes, was once quoted as saying, in reference to the classics, “Have I uttered the fundamental blasphemy that once said, sets the spirit free? The literature of the past is a bore - when one has said that frankly to oneself, then one can proceed to qualify and make exceptions.”

It is precisely why the Bimetallic Question gathers here tonight, as many similar groups do across the globe, that underlines the truth of this statement. We are indeed making exceptions, and it is through the conviviality of our society that we continue to enjoy and be delighted by the exploits of the Master.

I take great pleasure in asking you to raise your glasses in honour of - The Society, a most exceptional group.

**TO THE SOCIETY!**

Note, any members who have particularly good toasts are invited to submit them to David Dowse for future use.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting closed at 9:03 p.m.

**MRS HUDSONS CORNER:** In honour of our next Story:



## WHISKY & APPLE JELLY

3 lb. Cooking apples

Granulated Sugar

Water

Whisky

A Hint of Patience

- Wash the apples, remove any bad bits and then quarter them.
- Place in large preserving pan and just cover with water. Boil until quite soft but not pulpy.
- For best results, put contents into a jelly bag and allow to drip slowly overnight. Do not hurry the process.
- Measure the juice and allow one pound of sugar to each pint of liquid.
- Place juice and sugar into a pan and stir over moderate heat until the sugar dissolves. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly, skimming off the scum from time to time.
- To test if jelly will set drop a little on to a cold plate. When setting point is reached, remove from the heat and allow to rest for a few minutes.
- Add approximately 1 tablespoon of whisky to the juice (Adjust to your taste). Pour immediately into warm jars and seal. Add patience and do not use for 3 months. *The wait will be worth it.*

Source: SCOTTISH TEATIME RECIPES compiled by Johanna Mathie.

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### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Thurston's Billiard Night at the McGill Faulty Club will be held September 4th, 2002. More details to follow.
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### REPORTS ON PAST EVENTS:

The Colonel Sebastian Moran Airgun Shoot was held March 7th at the CN Revolver Club. After the smoke settled from the shootout to break a three-way tie, 1st Prize was awarded to Nick Rakic, 2nd Prize to Lawrence Reich, and 3rd Prize to Linda Huntoon.

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We honoured Sherlock Holmes' 148th Birthday Celebration on January 19th at a most singular establishment, restaurant Le Vieux Port. It surely was a one-of-a-kind experience! It was a most delightful dinner that was liberally augmented with conversation, entertainment and just as liberally lubricated with libations.

The debonair and multi-talented Colin Semel enchanted guests with choruses from a bygone age ranging from "The Man Who Broke The Bank At Monte Carlo" to "Daisy Bell". He was met with roars of approbation as he carried us along with him on a rollicking romp down memory lane. A great delight.

David Groves, one of our more mysterious members, recounted several humorous tales.



Prizes for best costumes were awarded to Sandra Anderson (Best Female), Paul Billette (Best Male) and Sidney Semel (Best junior Sherlockian). All were given a Holmesian prize. Patrick Campbell won the Quiz Master Trophy for 2001.

We thank Richard Buche, Charles Purdon, Wilfrid de Freitas and David Dowse for organizing a spectacular event. Thank you, gentlemen! The closing toast brought the evening to an end. All in attendance vanished into the dark depths of St. Paul Street (Montreal's version of Baker Street; cobblestones included) off to their next adventure.

By all accounts, the evening was a great success and will live fondly in our memories.

All that remains is to end the minutes by challenging you with the Puzzler for that is what awaits those brave enough:



1) Holmes has been known to exclaim: (5 Words) (3,4,2,1,4)

2) \_\_\_\_\_ A \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes believes a man's (2 Words) (5,5)

\_\_\_\_\_ should only contain the tools, which may help him in doing his work.

3) Where did Holmes keep his tobacco? (5 Words) (3-3,2,1,7,7)

\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ A \_\_\_\_\_

**Answers to last month's Puzzler: 1. Billy 2. Wiggins & 3. Violet Smith**

We look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at the April 4th meeting. Must dash! The next adventure awaits.

Your humble servant,  
Maureen

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Members who would like to actively participate in contributing articles, recipes or information on upcoming events, etc. for the newsletter are welcome. Please contact Maureen Anderson at: [jmanderson@videotron.ca](mailto:jmanderson@videotron.ca)

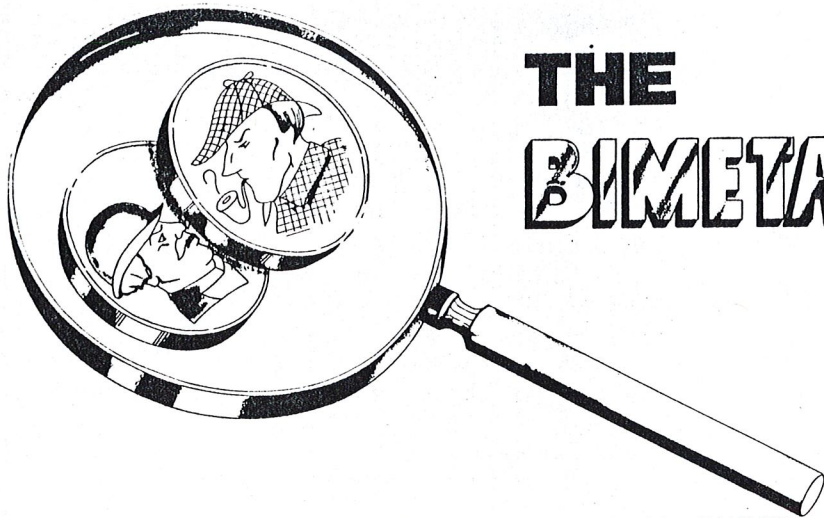
**PLEASE TAKE NOTE**

Cheques for 2002 Membership (January-December) are now due;  
please forward your Membership Form & payment of \$18.00 to Wilfrid de Freitas.

The Bimetallic Question 2002 Calendar is as follows:

February 7 <sup>th</sup>	April 4 <sup>th</sup>	June 6 <sup>th</sup>	August 1 <sup>st</sup>	October 3 <sup>rd</sup>	December 5 <sup>th</sup>
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# THE BIMETALLIC QUESTION



\*\*\*\*\* SPECIAL EVENT \*\*\*\*\*

THE COL. SEBASTIAN MORAN 5TH AIRGUN TARGET MATCH  
(FROM THE ADVENTURE OF THE EMPTY HOUSE)

DATE: THURSDAY 7 MARCH 2002

TIME: 7:00 PM FOR 7:15 PM START.

LOCATION: TARGET RANGE, CN RAIL POLICE TRAINING CENTRE.  
891 WILLIAM ST., MONTREAL. (RING FOR ADMISSION)  
THE RANGE IS LOCATED UNDER THE CN RAILWAY VIADUCT  
ON THE NORTH SIDE OF WILLIAM JUST WEST OF UNIVERSITY.  
PARKING IS AVAILABLE IN THE YARD ACROSS THE STREET.  
WILLIAM ST. IS THE 3RD STREET SOUTH OF NOTRE-DAME.

COST: \$5.00 PER PERSON TO BE PAID AT THE DOOR; PLEASE TRY TO  
HAVE THE CORRECT AMOUNT WITH YOU AS IT IS NOT ALWAYS  
POSSIBLE TO MAKE CHANGE FOR LARGE BILLS.

IMPORTANT: IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND PLEASE PHONE CHARLES PURDON  
AT 514-728-2667 BETWEEN 10 AM AND 10 PM

N.B.: WHILE MEMBERS MAY BRING GUESTS THE RULES STATE THAT ONLY  
MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING ARE ELIGIBLE TO WIN PRIZES.

RANGE RULES: THIS EVENT IS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE COURTESY  
OF THE CN RECREATION ASSOC. RIFLE & REVOLVER CLUB; THEIR  
SAFETY REGULATIONS REQUIRE THAT EYE PROTECTION MUST BE WORN  
WHEN SHOOTING, EITHER YOUR OWN OR THAT PROVIDED BY THE RANGE.  
EACH COMPETITOR WILL GET 5 PRACTICE SHOTS AND THEN ONE SCORING  
SHOT AT HOLMES'S SILHOUETTE TARGET USING THE RIFLE PROVIDED BY  
THE SOCIETY.

